

Post 11/30/65

U.N. Passes Arms Talks Resolution

UNITED NATIONS, N.Y., Nov. 20 (UPI)—The General Assembly, with an overwhelming vote of 112 to 0, today called for convening of a world disarmament conference to be held not later than 1967 with the participation of Communist China.

The United States, Britain and the Soviet Union joined in the massive vote. But France, keeping to its independent nuclear ways, abstained, and Nationalist China did not participate in the vote. Three countries — Cambodia, Gambia and Paraguay—were absent.

The General Assembly action ratified a 45-power resolution passed last Tuesday in the 117-nation Main Political Committee by a 91-0 vote with France abstaining.

Secretary General U Thant said after the vote was taken that the resolution was unusual in some respects in that it reflects "the rather unusual circumstances of the world situation."

This was an apparent reference to Communist China's fledgling nuclear development and the absence of the Peking regime in nuclear or disarmament conferences.

Assembly President Amintore Fanfani of Italy said he hoped that the vote taken by the 117-member assembly would be considered "a truly historic" action in the future.

But Western disarmament experts said the holding of the conference itself, despite the overwhelming support, remained a remote possibility.

The experts said there were too many questions that must be answered before the conference can start. Many revolve about the attitude of Red China, and the United States willingness to sit down with the Chinese Communists at a negotiation table.